

Treatment of Venereal Diseases by Unqualified Persons.

The Council adopted a resolution expressing the opinion that it is urgently necessary, for the protection of the public, that the treatment of venereal diseases and the advertisement of remedies for such a purpose by unqualified persons should be made a punishable offence. The Council further expressed the opinion that the recommendations of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Patent Medicines, which have now been endorsed by the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, should forthwith be adopted and embodied in the proposed legislative measures.

Obituary.

MARY BIRRELL DAVIES, L.R.C.P. AND S. EDIN.,

L.F.P.S. GLASG.,
LIVERPOOL.

By the death of Mary Birrell Davies the medical profession has lost one of its noted medical women. Although her health had been failing since the beginning of the war, yet she did not relinquish her duties at Croxteth Military Hospital until within a few weeks of her death. She was a native of Liverpool, and studied in Edinburgh, where she obtained the triple qualification in 1899. She then settled down in private practice, held the appointments of honorary medical officer, Liverpool Female Penitentiary, and Liverpool Wesleyan Girls' Home. She was elected a member of the Liverpool Medical Institution in 1905, and last year was the first medical woman elected to serve on the council of that body. Dr. Mary Davies was especially active in all social work pertaining to the health and well-being of her sex. Her organizing ability was at once recognized by the various philanthropic agencies throughout the city. It was in this direction that her professional knowledge found the widest scope. Like a true woman, she shunned the blazing light of publicity, and preferred to go about doing good, and by her example stimulate others to do likewise. Her professional knowledge enabled her to speak with no uncertain voice to mothers of the working classes of their parental responsibilities; and, indeed, Dr. Mary Davies said to the writer that she often thought that those women who seemed to think the working classes needed instruction were themselves too apt to neglect their own immediate duties. She deplored the diminution in the size of families among those who could well afford to have their quiver full.

She was interested in the Girl Guides' Movement from its start in 1909; was a member of the Victoria Women's Settlement, adviser to the juvenile employment section of the labour exchange, and inspector of children's institutes under the Children's Act. On the outbreak of war she initiated the Women's War Service Bureau in Liverpool, and in October, 1914, went to France where she did good work until failure of health compelled her to return home. She had indeed for several years been under the shadow of a mortal and painful illness, but she never permitted this to interfere with her work, which she carried on to the end with all the energy her diminishing strength permitted.

As a medical woman she had no difficulties with the male members of our profession. Her manner was tactful, her speech to the point, and in consultation the salient points of a case were put forth lucidly and tersely. Dr. Davies was indeed a tower of strength to her own sex, and was quick to detect its foibles in the matter of self-indulgence of any type. She was one of those women who recognized not only the limitations of her sex, but also its aspirations to the fullest extent. It was on this account that she endeared herself to so many of those whose views in pre-war days she did not actively share. Dr. Davies was one who preferred to sow and till the ground of the women's movement, and not to cry out for fruition before the time was ready. Personally she possessed great charm of manner, and was vivacious and a bright conversationalist. The funeral took place on January 4th. It was preceded by a memorial service at Sefton Park Presbyterian Church, which was largely attended by members of the medical profession and representatives of the various bodies with which Dr. Mary Davies had been closely identified. Now that she has gone we may say she lived a noble life, and one characteristic stands out perhaps more than any other in memory: her educated womanliness.

DR. OTHO FRANCIS WYER died on December 11th, 1916, at Leamington, where he had practised for forty-nine years. His father was an army surgeon who was awarded the Peninsular War Medal with five clasps, and a pension for distinguished service. Dr. Wyer was born in Ireland on July 5th, 1837, and was educated at Bedford Grammar School, passing from there to the Bedford General Infirmary, and completing his professional education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was distinguished by Sir James Paget as one of the most industrious and intelligent students of his time. In 1858 he took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A., and then held a temporary appointment as house-surgeon to the Warneford, Leamington, and South Warwickshire General Hospital, where he became known as one of the first doctors to introduce Spa water baths. After practising for a time at Nuneaton he studied under Lord Lister at Glasgow and took the degree of M.D. at its university in 1867, in which year he went back to Leamington, where he practised until 1910; in 1915 he celebrated his golden wedding. He became physician to the Warneford Hospital, and in 1869, when the Leamington Provident Dispensary was founded, he was appointed as one of its first medical officers. Dr. Wyer was a member of the British Medical Association, and succeeded Sir Thomas Chavasse in 1906 as President of the Branch. Dr. Wyer was a warm supporter of Lord Selborne's Society for the Protection of Birds. He inherited great literary tastes, some of his ancestors who came from Holland in the fifteenth century being workers with Caxton at his Westminster press. He was a good horticulturist, and gave much attention to the cultivation of roses. He was confined to his house for the last six years of his life.

DR. ISAAC MOSSOP, of Manningham, Bradford, Yorkshire, died, aged 71, on December 24th, after a long illness. He was born in Whitehaven, Cumberland, on January 16th, 1845, was educated at St. Bee's Grammar School, and studied medicine at Edinburgh University. In 1869 he took the diplomas of L.R.C.S. and P. Edin., and in 1891 that of F.R.C.S. Edin. After holding resident appointments in the Royal Infirmary and in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, he set up in practice in Bradford. He was made surgeon to the Bradford Children's Hospital at its foundation, and remained for fifteen years on the active staff; he took the greatest interest in the Bradford Women's Home and Shelter, and the Bradford Nurses' Institution. He was President of the Bradford Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1886-87, and of the Bradford Medico-Ethical Society in 1884-85. He played an active part in the work of the British Medical Association in Bradford; in 1906 he was Chairman of the Division, and in the following year President of the Yorkshire Branch. In 1874 he was gazetted surgeon-lieutenant to the old 2nd West Yorkshire Volunteer Artillery. He retired in 1910 with the rank of colonel, and received the Volunteer Decoration. He took an active part in war work of various kinds, till his ill health obliged him to desist. Dr. Mossop's wife died eleven years ago, but he leaves four sons and six daughters. Dr. Mossop was buried at Undercliffe Cemetery on December 28th, after a service at St. Luke's Church, Manningham. The Lord Mayor of Bradford, representatives of the professions and institutions in the city, and a very large number of friends and acquaintances attended the ceremony. At the Bradford Police Court Mr. Beaumont Morice, the stipendiary magistrate, made a sympathetic reference to Dr. Mossop, who had been a J.P.

DR. JAMES ARTHUR RIGBY of Preston died at his residence in that town on Christmas morning from acute pneumonia following influenza; only four days previously he was performing his military duties on the Medical Board of the 47th Area. Dr. Rigby was born in Preston in 1849. He studied medicine at Guy's Hospital, took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1873, and the degree of M.B. Lond (with honours) in 1874, and the M.D. in 1877. He returned to Preston, and practised there for the rest of his life. Dr. Rigby became medical officer to the Preston and County of Lancaster Queen Victoria Royal Infirmary, and took great interest in local government and social questions, being one of the most prominent members of the Preston Town Council since his election in